G.A.R.

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

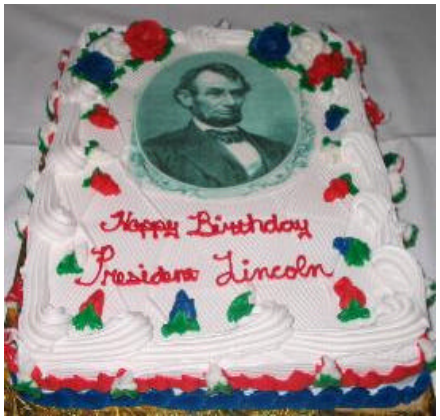
S.U.V.C.W.

THE CLARION CALL

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

1866 VOLUME No. 4 ISSUE No. 4 April 2005 1881

LINCOLN BRUNCH



Woburn, MA: On Sunday February 13, 2005, the Department of Massachusetts and the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry hosted a "Lincoln Brunch". The brunch was in honor of President Abraham Lincoln's 196th Birthday. The Crest View where the brunch was held was a magnificent location. Performing Abraham Lincoln was Steve Wood of New Hampshire. After a very entertaining speech, President Lincoln answered questions. He was asked about his staff of two, why he grew the beard, was the Gettysburg Address written on an envelope, who was the modern day person with him on the streets of Gettysburg, could he name some great Lincoln authors, how did he get started and what was one of his best experiences portraying Abraham Lincoln. As Abraham Lincoln he answered the questions with the same wit as our 16th president had. He explained that when he ran for president he had made many speeches in the eastern part of United States. Those speeches actually helped him and his political party, the Republicans, win the "contest" for the White House. According to President Lincoln it was an eleven year old girl who suggested he grow a beard so that he didn't look quite as "homely". President Lincoln took a moment to see if anyone in the audience was a bigger man than he was. He did find a match, but was told by Donald Hayes, "No one can be a bigger man than you." All and all Steve Wood was a very good portrayer. He answered the questions without hesitation, such as relaying the story of a child who asked him what happened to the "scare that the pirates gave you." Mr. Wood had no problem rattling off many books and authors on the subject of Abraham Lincoln and confirmed that the Gettysburg address was written well in advance with a few changes during the actual speech. Two framed photographs of the Lincoln Monument in Washington D.C. were handed out to the oldest and youngest in attendance. To close the event, everyone had a piece of the birthday cake. Members are urged to join the 11th Massachusetts and the Department of Massachusetts for next years event. A Clarion Call Huzzah goes out to Department Junior Vice Commander Kevin Tucker and the 11th Massachusetts for their hard work in putting on the 5th Annual Lincoln Brunch.

Photo by Bill Ryerson

Colonel Frank Tucker, Major Ed Parks, "Abe Lincoln" Steve Wood, General Rogers Finch, DC John Bates

NEXT DEPARTMENT MEETING:
APRIL 9,2005 2PM BICKFORD'S WOBURN, MA

Contact the Editor at: THE CLARION CALL 20 Howland Terrace, Worcester, MA 01602 Email: williegrout25@verizon.net

5th Annual Lincoln Brunch Photos

Lincoln Brunch Photos courtesy of Bill Ryerson

Massachusetts State House Hall of Flags

Boston, Massachusetts: Brother Dean Sargent (photo on left) and Camp 50 of Rockland, Massachusetts, have been quite busy. Through their efforts the flags in the Massachusetts State House Hall of Flags have been reinstalled. The reinstallation enables the display of flags ,the most valued items carried into battle by our soldiers in the American Civil War, to be seen as they are today. Underneath the 21st Massachusetts Regiment (photo below)" The position of color bearer was undoubtedly one of the proudest as well as most dangerous a soldier could hold. The flag, always posted at the front, served as a beacon for ones fellow soldiers and the enemy alike. To 'preserve the Union'—to never let it fall to the ground—was the gravest of responsibilities...one for which many color bearers gave up their lives. During the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, at least five men in turn bore this national color before being wounded. One, Sgt. Thomas Plunkett, upon receiving the flag moved to the front rank where it is recorded, '***A shell was thrown with fatal accuracy at the colors, which brought them to the round wet with the life-blood of the brave Plunkett, both of whose arms were carried away'***. Amazingly, Plunkett grasped the flag with his upper arms to keep it from falling, pressing on before being relieved. The center of the flag also beard the blood of Sgt. Peter Bryan, who positioned beside one of the color bearers, fell, mortally wounded in the head. Under the 54th Massachusetts Regiment (Photo above)" Massachusetts infantry units in the Civil War customarily carried both a national color and white state color bearing the coat of arms. Several sets of colors could be issued to a regiment as it's originals were damaged, destroyed, or lost in battle. This is the stat color of Massachusetts 54th, the first black regiment to be raised in the North. It was captured at the desperate assault on Battery Wagner, Charleston, South Carolina, July 18, 1863, and was returned to the Commonwealth in 1875. This flag is the companion to the national color saved by Sgt. William Carney, at the same battle. Three times wounded, Carney managed to bring the US color back to the Union lines while uttering that most memorable phrase, ***"the Old Flag never touched the ground, boy!"—***actions for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor by Congress"

Massachusetts Department Commanders Past & Present

Clark C. Mellor of Worcester was elected Department Commander in 1959 and in 1984. On August 17, 1988, he was elected National Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW. Brother Mellor joined the SUVCW on May 29, 1942, when he joined Willie Grout Camp #25. His ancestor was his grandfather Private Clark W. James, Co K 21st Connecticut Infantry. During his time within the SUVCW, Brother Mellor was also held the officers at the camp level as Commander, Department level as a member of the Council, at the national level as Guide, Color Bearer, Patriotic Instructor, Council of Administration, Chief of Staff, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Not only was he an active SUVCW member but he was also active a part of the Brookfield Post 530 Veterans of Foreign Wars as well as his church, St. Bernards and chairman of Explorer Scout Post 52. Brother Mellor served in World War II from 1939 to 1945. Brother Mellor had one daughter and a son, Brother Perley Mellor, Department Senior Vice Commander.

CALLING ALL SONS OF UNION VETERANS!!!

Do you want to be a part of Civil War Memorial History!
Come join your brothers as we participate in the dedication of a NEW Civil War Monument. That's right, a new Civil War Monument. This is a rare occasion. Since the days of the Grand Army of the Republic few monuments in Massachusetts have been erected honoring the civil war. This time, the Sons of Union Veterans have been invited to march, walk or just watch the ceremonies. If you can, please join us. If you have a uniform that would be best, but a nice suit displaying your badge is just as good. Camps from all over the state are sending members, be one of them. To walk, show up in the village of Millers Falls by 8:00 a.m.
HIGHLIGHTS: Saturday May 21, 2005 **ERVING, MASSACHUSETTS**, the parade starts at 10AM in Highland Park in Millers Falls and march to Veterans Field (about one mile). The parade will include Scottish bagpipes for each marching group: War Veterans, Civil War, Police Departments, Fire Departments etc….

On Veterans Field there will be an ongoing civil war encampment. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS:
April 25, 2005: Civil War Mini Expo, Worcester State College 7pm-10pm
April 29-30,2005: Department Encampment, Yankee Drummer Auburn, MA
May 15,2005: Civil War Letters, American Legion Hall, Uxbridge, MA
May 29,2005: Memorial Parade, National Cemetery, Bourne, MA

Department of
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICERS
2004-2005

Commander
John W. Bates III
117 Trenton Street
Melrose, MA 02176
(781)-662-7758
Email: john7suv@aol.com

Senior Vice Commander
Perley Mellor
16 Norma Drive
Nashua, NH 03062
Email: perley.e.mellor@baesystemss.com

Junior Vice Commander
Civil War Memorials Officer
Kevin Tucker
58 Forest Street
Wakefield, MA 01880
(781)-246-9194
Email: kevin_tucker@equityoffice.com

Treasurer
Assistant Secretary
Edward W. Parks
P.O. Box 411
Middleboro, MA 02346-3118
(508)-947-4572

Secretary
Assistant Treasurer
Pres Correspondent
William T. Ryerson Sr.
P.O. Box 11
Winchester, MA 01890
(781)-729-3311
Email: secsuvcwma@aol.com

Chaplin
Martin Kennedy
34 Pickering Street
Winchester, MA 01890
(781)-729-5645
Email: langken@earthlink.net

Patriotic Instructor
Signals Officer
George Maple Jr.
50 Vernon Street
Worcester, MA
(508)-410-5448
Email: georgejr@25thmass.org

Council Member
Peter Rotando
76 Sterling Street
West Boylston,MA 01583
(508)-835-4896

Council Member
Reynaldo Rodriguez
20 Howland Terrace
Worcester, MA 01602
(508)-793-8210
Email: williegrout25@verizon.net

Council Member
Grave Registration Officer
Stephen Twining
P.O. Box 3394
Pittsfield, MA 01202-3394
(413)-443-0080
Email: stephen.twining@gd-ais.com

Counselor
John Abbott
118 Wilson Road
Bedford, MA 01730-1323
Email: jabbott732@aol.com

Eagle Scout Coordinator
ROTC Award Coordinator
Douglas Jenkins
80 Marshland Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-469-9290

Historian
A. Dean Sargent
83 Concord Street
Rockland, MA 02370
Tel: 781-878-9470
Email: drsarg@rcn.com

GAR Highway Officer
Franklin N. Haley
4 Arapahoe Road
Bellingham, MA 02019
Tel.: 508-966-0684
Email: mimida@comcast.net

GUESS WHO? Answer below:

If you guessed Frank Battles you would be correct. He was the G.A.R. Dept. of MASS. Quartermaster in 1906.
The Clarion Call respectfully will keep the name of the current SUVCW who he resembles unless that former D.C. member wants us to tell….hint he lives out WEST.

G.A.R. Spot Light : Stuart Brown & "The Drummer Boy"

Stuart Brown was born in 1837 in Worcester, Massachusetts. During the Civil War he was a sergeant in the 6th Massachusetts Regiment when it was attacked while marching through Baltimore. Sergeant Brown later joined the 51st M.V.I.. In the play "The Drummer Boy", he had the part of Frank Rutledge. For about 50 years, George H. Ward G,A.R. Post #10 sponsored "The Drummer Boy". This was a play that performed in the Worcester Theater located on Exchange Street in Worcester. Many of Post 10 projects were assisted by money raised by this play and other fundraisers. Stuart Brown died on January 13,1917 and is buried in Rural Cemetery in Worcester, Massachusetts.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR'S CORNER

If you received the Patriotic Surveys I sent to your camps, please fill them out. The survey gives the National Patriotic Instructor information in regards to what we're doing and will best be able to help us out.
In Marlboro, MA , a street named after a Civil War Veteran was threatened. A new corporation was going to change the street name to Boston Scientific. After some compromise, the company has been given the choice of not renaming the street or building an appropriate memorial in the name of Alonzo Fairbanks. If you find that in your community some business is trying to take something away from a war veteran such as the name of a street, let the Department of Massachusetts know. Together we can stop injustices and continue to remember those who gave "the last full measure of devotion."

March 13, 2005: A **Clarion Call Huzzah!** goes out to a contingent of Sons who tied for FIRST PLACE as a "marching unit" in the 23rd Worcester County St. Patrick's Day Parade: Camp 25 members George Maple, Donald Reid, Rey Rodriguez, carried the Department Colors, Camp 50 member Tom Gingras, kept everyone in step, and potential member of Camp 104 John Charow.

Newburyport Civil War Monument

Dedicated on July 4, 1902 the monument is a soldier returning from war cast in bronze on a rough boulder in Atkinson Common. The dedication ceremony songs like "to thee, oh country", "Columbia the Gen of the Ocean", and America. The Gettysburg Address was also read at the dedication. A.W. Bartlett G.A.R 49 of Newburyport as well as G.A.R. post 101,122 , 108,128 and NH G.A.R. Post 127 all sent members.

Civil War MINI Expo:

Uxbridge, MA: On Abraham Lincoln's birthday AA Sherman Camp #18 and Willie Grout Camp #25 put on a Civil War Mini Exposition. Held on Riverbend Farm at the Heritage State Park along the Black Stone Canal, there were displays as well as uniforms. Brother Richard Lufkin of Camp 18 brought various uniforms for visitors to feel and even try on. One woman was sporting a very nice 'great coat'. The displays included information boards on Clara Barton, Andersonville, Women of the Civil War, Various Military Branches of the Civil War, History of the G.A.R and Massachusetts Civil War Monuments in the 21st Century. Also on hand, Brother Frank Haley was taking orders for military flag holders. Brother Rey Rodriguez began his fundraiser, "Adopt a Civil War Veteran", with all moneys going to a fund to purchase flag holders and stone placement. Also on at the Expo was Camp 18 Commander Roy Henry who had books, photo albums and information to display. The Expo which ran from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. also included a film presented by a National Parks Ranger on the "Vacant Chair", Willie Grout, and Helene E. Smith. Another film viewed was the end of H.H. Legg's home in Uxbridge. G.A.R. Post #25 in Uxbridge was named in his honor. The two camps hope to reproduce their success with another Mini Expo in April.

"Pictures are Worth 1,000 Words!!"

A.A. Sherman Camp 18 Commander Roy Henry tries to earn an SUVCW version of the purple heart after he injures himself setting up an educational display.

Willie Grout Camp 25 Patriotic Instructor/ Graves Registration Officer Ed Norris is initiated into the SUVCW.

MY CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS

Brothers in arms: Jack & George Black
by Paul Jancewicz
Charles H. Bond Camp 104

Many years ago, my great aunt sold or discarded many items of great significance to our family history. Because of this unfortunate situation, it has taken me many years to reacquire information regarding my Civil War ancestors, and I have all but given up hope of finding a picture of my great-great-great-grandfather, John Black.

Tombstone of John Black
11th Massachusetts Vol. Infantry

Private John Black, was born in Derry, New Hampshire on November 22nd, 1827, to John and Sarah (Ranton) Black. He and his brother George, (along with their two older brothers) worked as sailors in Newburyport, MA in 1860.

When Civil War broke out in the country, John enlisted and was mustered into Company C of the 11th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry on November 18, 1861, four days shy of his 34th birthday. He enlisted for three years, and served in the Army of the Potomac under General McClellan during the Peninsula Campaign. He was present at the siege of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Glendale, and finally at Malvern Hill, after which he was discharged for disability on August 15, 1862.

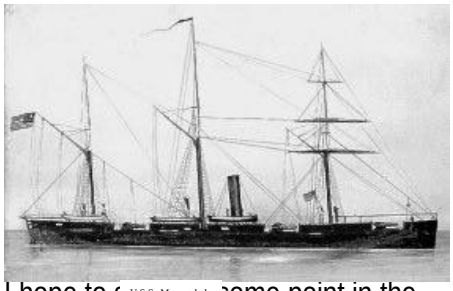
John died of typhoid fever on August 29, 1862, the very date that his unit took part in the 2nd Battle of Bull Run. He was 35 years old, and left behind a widow and orphaned children. His was the first military funeral held in Newburyport. The city generously paid for his funeral expenses and voted to give extensive aid to his widow, Myra (Spoor) Black.

A few year ago I visited Malvern Hill, (in my ancestor's memory) and found the trip to be a very moving experience. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to actually touch some of the cannon that were engaged in the battle under the command of "Stonewall" Jackson. (They are situated at VMI, which was then preparing for the filming of the movie "Gods & Generals".)

George Newton Black, brother of John Black

John's brother, George Newton Black, died in 1908 at age 71, at the Soldiers' Home in Togus, ME. Fortunately for my research efforts, the local news published his obituary, and I was also able to obtain a copy, along with his photograph. George had been a member of the A. W. Bartlett Post No. 49 G.A.R., and had served for 30 years with Engine #2 of the Newburyport Fire Dept. After the war, George had nobly cared for his brother's children.

George Black had enlisted in the U.S. Navy on January 22, 1862, a few months after his brother John. He served aboard the J.P. Jackson, the Potomac, and the Monogahela, in West Gulf Squadron. He was present at capture of forts Jackson and St. Philips, near New Orleans, and at the naval attack at Vicksburg. George Black was discharged on April 15, 1865.



U.S.S. Monogahela

Imagine my thrill when I discovered that my wife's great grandfather, Zeno Elwell, had served aboard the U.S.S. Hartford, right across from George Black, at the naval battle of New Orleans. I am even more excited to relate that I have Zeno's unpublished account, (a G.A.R. speech given at Somerville, MA) of that action, which I hope to share at some point in the future.

Both John and George Black are memorialized on one of the finest Civil War monuments that I've ever seen, (and I've seen many) at the Atkinson Common in Newburyport, MA.

(Continued from page 7)

Both John and George are memorialized on one of the most fine Civil War monuments that I've ever seen and I've seen many (well worth the visit)—Atkinson Common in Newburyport, MA (the birthplace of William Lloyd Garrison). John is one of the reasons that I got involved with the Boston Volunteers, one of the best memorialization units in the nation. I will ever remain grateful for that fine association and for the services that these two brothers in arms rendered to their nation.

(More on the Newburyport Civil War Monument on page 6)

Who is Frederick H. Metzger? by Ed Coyne Camp 104

He was born in Greenville, Connecticut on July 21,1849. He was orphaned at an early age, ran away from where he was living and in 1863, at the age of fourteen enlisted in the 7th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry as a musician, using the last name of his friend so that his caretakers could not find him. As a musician he did not have to take up arms but no doubt he did while in the heat of battle. The 7th took part in many battles in South Carolina, Florida and Virginia, also including a quick trip to New York City, for duty during the draft riots. The 7th was mustered out of service on August 11, 1865. Now that Frederick was discharged he went back to using his real last name. At the age of 16, he returned to school. In 1875 he was married in Bridgeville, Delaware, and in 1880, was living in Philadelphia, where he started a business of making recognition items for veterans. He became a member of the G.A.R. Post 120, Department of Pennsylvania around 1886. Oh, by the way, his real full name is Frederick Henry Dyer, the author of one of the most important reference books that is used by researchers to date. It's titled The Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, or its shortened version," Dyer's Compendium", which is in common use today. It was copyrighted in 1908 and reprinted in 1978 by Morningside Bookshop. I am fortunate to have one of the reprint copies which is the mainstay of my research library. It is twelve by nine in size and contains 1,796 pages full of information on every Union unit active in the ground forces of the United States during the Civil War, its battles and various statistics. In 1903, he left his family and rented a room so he could devote all of his time to compiling his information into its final product. Dyer, worked on his compendium 7 days a week, 5 years later in April of 1908, it was finished. In February of 1909, it was published and put on the open market. Dyer returned to his family in 1912, they moved to Boston, Massachusetts. He died in 1917 and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, on Walk Hill Street in Mattapan section of Boston. Frederick Henry Dyer is at rest in the G.A.R. New Veterans Lot on Webster Avenue in an UNMARKED grave, number 125, see picture of lot. It is said that he requested that no monument should mark his grave, that the compendium would be his monument. It is my opinion that a proper Civil War Union headstone should be placed at his burial site to honor him as a Union soldier, as any other soldier of the United States is entitled to. He has earned that for his service to his country. Maybe the Sons of Union Veterans, Departments of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts and/or our National Order, could work together and accomplish this within my lifetime.

The G.A.R. New Veterans Lot on Webster Avenue in Mount Hope Cemetery. Obviously, there

Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients

Dean Sargent, Gen. George L. Hartsuff Camp 50

George Henry Maynard

13th Massachusetts Infantry
82nd U.S. Colored Troops Infantry
Born 2/2/1836 in Waltham, Massachusetts
Died 12/26/1927
Buried in Mount Feake Cemetery in Waltham, MA
Presented the Medal of Honor for action on December 13, 1862 during the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia. George Maynard returned a wounded and helpless comrade to safety.

Charles W. Reed

9th Massachusetts Light Artillery
Born 4/1/1842 in Charlestown, Massachusetts
Buried: Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA
Most distinguished Gallantry at the Battle of Gettysburg, PA, July 2, 1863, where he rescued his wounded captain from between enemy lines.

The Federal Memorial Tartan Tie

Charles H. Bond Camp 104 has a new item for sale, a very sharp Tartan Tie that looks real great with a blue blazer. The tie's colors are; dark blue for the uniforms, light blue for the infantry, red for the artillery, gold for the cavalry, and re/white/blue for the Flag of the United States. It should be worn proudly by anyone who honors those who fought to preserve the United States in the American Civil War. Ties are available from Camp Treasurer, Bill Ryerson at P.O. Box 11, Winchester, MA 01890. Cost is $28.50 including shipping, make checks payable to, "Charles H. Bond Camp 104". The camp also plans to provide other items using the Federal Memorial pattern, bowtie, scarf, sash, stole, shawl, cummerbund, pillows, ladies pocketbook, visor, and several varieties of caps are all possible. All proceeds go to support Camp 104, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War which is over a 100 years old and now meets at the Americal Building in Wakefield, Massachusetts.

LAST WORDS!

1. At the Dept. Encampment **run for** elected offices. We all bring our own ideas and abilities, so don't be afraid to become a part of the system that makes the department work for the membership. Without involvement from the various members from all the camps at the department office level, our future is in jeopardy. We are all here to help each other, so GIVE IT A TRY!!
2. The National Encampment is in Nashua, New Hampshire! Hope to see as many of you from Massachusetts as possible!!!

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The Clarion Call
20 Howland Terrace
Worcester, MA 01602

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